

Reader's Group Guide

The Last Policeman

by Ben H. Winters

- 1) Do you think Ben H. Winters paints a convincing picture of Concord, New Hampshire, and of the world at large with only six months until the asteroid might collide with the earth?
- 2) The economy is spiraling downward while crops rot in the fields. Churches and synagogues are packed. People all over the world are walking off the job—but not Hank Palace. What do you think motivates Hank to remain dedicated to his work? And is his character realistic?
- 3) Hank has finally attained his lifelong goal of becoming a detective but his promotion is due to the fact that all of his colleagues are quitting. Do you think Hank feels the need to prove himself in order to make his dream of being a detective real and fulfilled?
- 4) When you learned how the hospital is handling the patients, how did you react?
- 5) Hank has a complicated relationship with his sister and doesn't like her husband. Were you surprised when Hank took on the risk of looking for Nico's husband?
- 6) Hank has a brief but intimate relationship with Naomi. Is love at the end of the world possible?
- 7) Toward the end of the book Hank finds himself alone and seems to be OK with it. Are you surprised that he took in Houdini as a pet?
- 8) This novel is a mash-up of mystery and science fiction. If you're a fan of mystery and not science fiction, did any of the science fiction aspects of the book appeal to you? (Vice versa for the science fiction fans.)
- 9) Do you think that Hank, or anyone else, might survive the impact of the asteroid? Or do you believe Hank's days truly are numbered?
- 10) If you knew there were only six months before the apocalypse, what would your bucket list look like?